

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting March 21-22, 1983 First Baptist Church, Vicksburg THEME: Accountable!!!

MONDAY EVENING — ACCOUNTABLE — to give
6:45 Prelude Mrs. Dot Pray
7:00 Hymns of Praise Major McDaniel, Mrs. Pray and
Mrs. James Richardson
Prayer Mrs. Harold Murphy
Theme Interpretation Mrs. Robert Fling
Accountable — to give
Business First Baptist, Gary Gregg
Greetings Warren Association, Rev. Ray Ming
California WMU, Mrs. Robert Staver
My Contact with "the Indomitable Lady" Mrs. Marvin Bond
Hymn
Commissioning Service for women going to Rio de la Plata
Offertory Hymn
Offertory Prayer Mrs. G. W. Smith
Offering

SERVING ON SOME OF THE MISSION FIELDS OF THE WORLD
Mrs. James Foster
Mrs. Richard Beal
Mrs. John Perkins
Hymn Mr. McDaniel
Special Music Mr. and Mrs. Glendon Grober
CARRYING THE LIGHT IN BRAZIL Mr. and Mrs. Glendon Grober
ACCOUNTABLE — to give The Lighthouse Players
Postlude Mrs. Pray

TUESDAY MORNING — ACCOUNTABLE — to witness
9:15 Prelude Mrs. Pray
9:30 Hymns of Praise Mr. McDaniel, Mrs. Pray, Mrs. Richardson
Prayer Patricia Simmons
Theme Interpretation Mrs. Fling
Accountable — to witness

Business
THE CALIFORNIA CONNECTION Mrs. Robert Staver,
Mrs. James Fancher,
Mrs. Vince Scoper, Mrs. Charles Tyler,
Mrs. E. M. Kee, Jr., Mrs. Roy Ivy,
Mrs. Jerry Brunt

Offertory Hymn Mrs. John Merritt
Offertory Prayer
Offering
STARTEAM Recognition
Parents of Mississippi Missionaries Mrs. Charles Tyler
Hymn Mrs. Huron Polnac
STATE MISSIONS WORK IN IDAHO
Hymn
Special Music McDaniel
STATE MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES IN MISSISSIPPI John McBride
ACCOUNTABLE — to witness The Lighthouse Players
Postlude Mrs. Pray

LUNCHEON HONORING PARENTS OF MISSISSIPPI
MISSIONARIES
(Continued on page 4)

To teach book

Mississippi women will travel to South America

Ten teams of Mississippi women will be in 80 churches of Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina during March and April to teach the book, *The Gifted Woman I Am*, written by Mrs. Earl (Marjorie) Kelly. Mrs. Kelly, wife of the executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the coordinator for the group, which leaves Mississippi March 25. Three of the teams of two women each will be in Paraguay and Argentina, three will be in Uruguay and Argentina, and four will be in Argentina only. The book to be taught has been translated into Spanish. A large rally has been planned with all 20 women participating on the last night the group is in Buenos Aires, Argentina. That will be April 7. The departure from Buenos Aires will be April 8 with a stop planned in Rio de Janeiro to visit mission work on the way back to the United States. Kelly and Don McGregor, editor of the *Baptist Record*, will be making the trip also to check on future projects for

the Mississippi partnership arrangement with the three countries of the Rio de la Plata. They will also fill speaking engagements in all three countries. The women who will be making the trip are Mrs. John D. Thomas, Hattiesburg; Ethel McKeithen, Jackson; Mrs. Roy Collum, Jackson; Mrs. Maude Womack, Jackson; Mrs. J. Kearney Travis Jr., Hattiesburg; Mrs. Carolyn Sessions Kee, Woodville; Mrs. Billy Williams, Gautier; Mrs. Frank Gunn, Biloxi; Mrs. Howard Parker, Prentiss; Mrs. Owen Cooper, Yazoo City; Mrs. James F. Yates, Yazoo City; Mrs. Ingram Foster, Prentiss; Mrs. Vince Scoper, Laurel; Mrs. James Fancher, Coffeeville; Doris Diaz, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.; Mrs. Martha Jean Alvis, Jackson; Mrs. Frances Smira, Jackson; Jerry Kemp, Columbia; Ann Alexander, Greenville; and Mrs. Kelly. The women will be paying their own way. Miss Diaz will also serve as an interpreter.

The Baptist Record

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Among 27 relief projects

Southern Baptists to aid 4,000 in 11 Thai villages

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—About 4,000 Thai people uprooted by fighting along the Thailand-Cambodia border will receive Southern Baptist help in starting over.

The people fled their home area as fighting forced them to resettle on undeveloped land. With \$78,675 from Southern Baptist hunger and relief funds, agriculture projects will be started in the 11 villages where the people now live.

The projects were among 27 reported at the March meeting of the Foreign Mission Board, which released \$829,467 in February to meet hunger and relief needs around the world.

Most of the allocations were for developmental projects. One will set up a \$121,900 vocational and community center in connection with a church in Argentina. Another earmarks \$208,462 to help provide safe drinking water for a town of about 10,000 people in North Brazil.

The February allocations bring to \$1,287,986, the funds released from human needs projects this year. Southern Baptists gave more than \$1

million for world hunger and relief purposes in January and February.

Last year, Southern Baptists gave a record \$5.8 million for world hunger and relief needs. But more than \$8 million was allocated for 192 different projects as the board's program to meet human needs moved ahead at an unprecedented pace. Funds that had accumulated from strong giving in past years made possible the record allocations.

Thurmon Bryant, director for eastern South America, pointed out in a report that in his area alone 609 missionaries gave major portions of their time in 1982 to assist in 64 relief projects totaling more than \$2 million.

He said missionary Edward Trott, a Mississippian working in a project to help people in the drought-stricken

Gravata Valley in northeast Brazil, impressed Brazilians when he got down on his hands and knees to show them how to dig irrigation canals, thread pipe, and connect plastic tubes. After working a 10-hour day, he taught Bible at night.

In Paraguay missionary physician William Skinner and his wife, Fran, 32-year veterans of medical work in Asuncion, took a boat loaded with relief supplies to the flooded city of Alberdi. Bryant said the boat stuck on a sandbar as they tried to pull it into the dock. Fran got out to lighten the load and to push the boat, wrenching her back in the process.

Such dedication, Bryant said, is typical of the attitude of servanthood missionaries are demonstrating as they try to "feed the hungry, clothe the

naked, provide shelter for the homeless, health for the sick, and new-found hope for the lost."

In other action the board reappointed Grayson and Betty Tension as missionaries to Portugal. Tension, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Texas, since 1976, will be executive secretary of the Portuguese Baptist Convention. The couple served 10 years in Brazil and 17 years in Portugal before their resignation in 1976.

Board member Ron Liesmann urged prayers for the missionary appointment service April 12, in Indianapolis Convention Center. An attendance goal of 10,000 has been set for the service, sponsored by Baptists in the North Central States. Liesmann, a pastor from Bloomington, Ind., is coordinating chairman for the event.

Draper would continue

By Charles Richardson
ABILENE, Texas (BP)—A desire to "really maintain a level of trust" has convinced James T. Draper Jr. to permit his nomination for a second term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I think the only way to maintain a level of trust is for me to do the same thing two years in a row," Draper said in an interview at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. The pastor of First Church, Euless, Tex., was at HSU to preach at the annual Big Country Pastor and Laymen's Conference.

"I have no intention of changing (the way he has functioned as president of the 13.9 million member convention since his election last June)," he said, "but I will have to be reelected to

maintain the trust that has been established."

Draper said he did not know whether there would be any opposition to him at the meeting in Pittsburgh this June. "But I'm going to make whoever is against me beat me," he jokingly said. "They can have it. It's a hard job."

During a news conference, Draper had comments on Jerry Falwell and Billy Graham.

Draper did not offer any personal criticism of Falwell in the political arena, but said, "I would not want to go as far as he has gone."

Draper said he was in agreement with Graham in his views on political endorsements. "I agree with what Billy has said," (Referring to a recent statement by the North Carolina evangelist in a recent issue of TV

Guide: "As Christian evangelists, we should speak out on moral issues, but we should not use our programs to endorse political causes.")

Draper also agreed with another Graham criticism of some television evangelists who "pass the collection plate too often."

Draper gave an example of a preacher who told his broadcast audience that God asked only a tithe or 10 percent of their income and then told them to "send the 10 percent to me."

He added, "That was not right. The 10 percent belongs to the local church." The SBC president also said he urged religious broadcasters at a recent convention to "complement the local church rather than compete with them."

(Richardson directs public relations at Hardin-Simmons.)

Tennessee sues over IRS form

By Al Shackleford
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes and the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention have filed suit in federal court contesting penalties levied by Internal Revenue Service against TBCH for its refusal to file Information Form 990.

The suit which was filed Feb. 16 in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Cookeville Division, will seek to recover \$17,675.12 paid by Children's Homes in penalties and interest in what was termed "unlawful assessments."

The TBCH and the TBC Executive Board contend that the Children's Homes are not required under Internal Revenue Act of 1976 to file Information Form 990 and to file such forms would "result in an excessive entanglement of government in the function of the church which is violative of the United States Constitution, including the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses of the First Amendment."

The IRS Act of 1976 was interpreted by IRS regulations to mean that certain religious organizations, such as Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, were not "integrated auxiliaries" of churches and conventions of churches and therefore are subject to government inquiries and possible taxation.

(Shackleford edits the Tennessee Baptist and Reflector.)

Evangelism meet set for Greenville

An invitation from First Church, Greenville, for the Evangelism-Bible Conference to meet there in 1985 was accepted by the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board last week during its meeting in Jackson.

The meeting will be held there Feb. 4 to Feb. 6.

Members of the Executive Committee also authorized the expenditure of \$7,000 for building a hay barn at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko. Some 800 bales of hay are being stored in rented facilities at this time, and the owner has notified retreat director Dan West that those facilities will no longer be available.

The committee expressed appreciation to men of First Church, Brandon. (Continued on page 5)

Double housing break may return

WASHINGTON (BP)—Legislation to overturn a 1983 Internal Revenue Service ruling that ministers can no longer deduct mortgage interest and real estate taxes for which they have received a tax-exempt housing allowance has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rep. Stan Parris, R-Va., has introduced a bill to exempt ministers from Revenue Ruling 83-3, which bars double tax breaks for veterans and students as well as ministers.

An IRS spokesman described the ruling as an effort by the nation's tax collecting agency to consistently enforce a section of the tax law which bars double tax breaks. The ruling, set to take effect no later than June 30, 1983, revoked a 1962 ruling which specifically allowed ministers to deduct their mortgage interest and real estate tax expenses even though the law allows them a tax-exempt housing allowance.

In a letter to House colleagues inviting their support as co-sponsors of H. R. 1905, Parris called the inclusion of ministers in the ruling "unwarranted and an injustice."

no means a small scale operation.

Puppets

With 60 puppets and \$5,000 worth of sound equipment, the youths are working on the first musical ("Lightshine") to be done with puppets. The first-of-its-kind production is under direction of Russ Brashear, associate pastor. After Midway holds a premiere at the church in July (exact date to be announced later), the Radio-TV Commission, SBC, Fort Worth, Tex., will produce the work for television audiences; already stations in seven other countries have asked to use it.

Brashear (the "Voice of the Choc-taws" on the MC radio station, WHJT), began the puppet ministry in 1978 at Midway. Later, following graduation from Southwestern Seminary, he returned and revived the puppets. He directs the children's church, which uses puppets, and also continually trains new groups in use of puppets. "Teams," he said, "are always ready to go out to present puppet skits, and could be on the road at least two Sundays a month." They must arrive at least four hours in advance of a program to set up equipment. They need several appointments in any area to warrant expense of traveling with the equipment. Individuals from Midway financed the purchase of the puppets. (Continued on page 3)

What's Inside

Editorials by Don McGregor, Page 4
It wasn't Madalyn Murray O'Hair this time
Good work in the legislature

Faces and Places by Anne McWilliams, Page 4
Miracle in Montevideo

BSU appoints 65, Page 2

Through prayer God moves..., Page 3

House SS bill would hike ministers' taxes

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)—Social Security taxes for ministers would rise sharply under a comprehensive package passed by the House of Representatives to bolster the nation's financially-troubled retirement system.

By a vote of 282-142, the House approved a wide range of Social Security tax increases and benefit cuts designed to enhance the system by \$165.3 billion over the next seven years as well as increase its long-term stability. Included in the package are two provisions which would affect clergy beyond the speedup of already-planned tax hikes for all participants.

Under the House bill, Social Security taxes for ministers and all other self-employed Americans would jump by one-third, although that increase would be partially offset by new tax credits. Also, ministers and other participants in denominational pension plans would be required to pay Social Security taxes on contributions to annuity programs made by their employing church, agency, or institution.

However, the impact of the House-passed changes affecting ministers may be cushioned and part of it negated in light of more favorable treatment of clergy in the Social Security reform package approved by the Senate Finance Committee.

The House bill followed the recommendation of the National Commission on Social Security Reform in raising Social Security rates for self-employed participants to equal the combined employer-employee level beginning in 1984. Currently, self-employed persons pay about 75 percent of the combined employer-employee rate.

Under the House bill, self-employment taxes would jump from 9.35 percent to 14 percent in 1984, but that increase would be partially offset by tax credits against Social Security taxes.

The Senate Finance Committee bill would further offset the self-employment tax increases by providing larger tax credits. That plan calls for a tax credit of 2.9 percent of self-employment income in 1984, 2.5 percent in 1985, 2.2 percent in 1986, 2.1 percent in 1987-89 and 2.3 percent in 1990 and thereafter.

By law, ministers participate in Social Security as self-employed persons, but a bill designed to give ministers and churches the option of treating ministers as employees for Social Security purposes has been introduced by Rep. Berkeley Bedell, D-Iowa.

The House bill also would make employer contributions to certain non-profit pension plans, including those administered by the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board, subject to Social Security taxes. The Senate Finance Committee, however, agreed to include language in its bill which preserves the current law on these pension plans.

Both the House-passed legislation and the Senate committee bill follow the national commission's recommendation of extending mandatory Social Security coverage to all employees of non-profit organizations beginning in 1984. According to a Ways and Means Committee spokesman, this change will not affect the exemptions granted under the Internal Revenue Code to ministers, members of religious orders, and members of certain religious faiths.

(Chesser writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.)



Behind three of Midway's puppets are, l to r, Dennis Atwood; Benton Preston, pastor; Russ Brashear, associate pastor and director of the puppet ministry; and Ladonna Calloway. Dennis and Ladonna are students at MC. He has been licensed to the ministry and she worked last summer as a missionary in Iowa.

BSU appoints 65

These are the Baptist students appointed by Mississippi BSU to serve at home and abroad in missions in 1983. Students raise all expenses themselves.

 Wendell Dodd MC Chalkyisik Alaska	 Tony Osborne Hinds Ft. Yukon Alaska	 Marcia Broome USM Mt. McKinley Alaska	 Mindy Dodson MSU Grand Canyon Ariz.	 David Mitchell MC Phoenix, Ariz.	 Diane Dodson MSU Pine Bluff, Ark.	 Keith Ward Delta State Fresno, Cal.	 Cliffa Foster Blue Mountain Lake Tahoe, Cal.	 Ronnie Black MSU Los Angeles, Cal.	 Deborah Causey USM San Francisco, Cal.	 Robert Woodman USM San Francisco, Cal.	 Mary Lee Little Jones Mesa Verde & Umcompahgre Assoc., Col.
 Gene Fortenberry MC Trinity-Love- land, Colo.	 Debbie Wall Ole Miss Jacksonville, Fla.	 Cindy Sumner MC Miami Assoc., Fla.	 Tracey Beasley Ole Miss Atlanta, Ga.	 Scott Carlin William Carey Hawaii	 Cherise Ayers MC Hawaii	 Suzy Washburn Blue Mountain Hawaii	 Rusty Keyes Hinds Ft. Hall, Id.	 David Minnis MSU Chicago, Ill.	 Penny Lofton William Carey Joliet, Ill.	 Haley Hughes MC Joliet, Ill.	 Laura Davis MSU Indiana
 Donna Denny Northwest Indiana	 Daniel Hathorne Jones Resort Missions Indiana	 Deborah Miller MC Ames, Iowa	 Gayle Gardner Jeff Davis Ames, Iowa	 Doug Hubbard USM Kansas/Nebraska	 John Brock MC Kansas/Nebraska	 Alan McCall Blue Mountain Camp Joy, Brownsville, Ky.	 June Goodwin MC Louisville, Ky.	 Pam Mitchell Pearl River Baltimore As- soc., Md.	 Randy Scott MC Maryland/ Delaware	 Audrey Mitchell Delta State Bambi Lake Assembly, Mich.	 Kirk Lucky USM Flint, Mich.
 Todd Smith William Carey Minnesota/ Wisconsin	 Rebecca Clarke USM Minnesota/ Wisconsin	 Kiern Crosswhite Northwest Kansas City, Mo.	 Travis Tramel Blue Mountain Billings, Mont.	 Carol Leake USM Nevada	 Julie Roberson William Carey Rochester, N.Y.	 Mark Mathis MSU Saranac Lake, N.Y.	 Sarah Crumpton USM Asheville, N.C.	 Rose Byers Northwest Cincinnati, O.	 Valerie Erle Delta State Muskingum Val- ley Assoc., O.	 Sherra Mott William Carey Gold Beach, Ore.	 Melanie Reeves Ole Miss Siskiyou Assoc., Ore.
 Frank Trotter MSU Bophuthats- wana	 Amy Frederick USM French West Indies	 Cathy Pratt MSU Germany	 Todd Rogers USM Germany	 Sandy Phillips Blue Mountain Ghana	 Jeff Marter Delta State Israel	 Gayle McQueen Co-Lin Drums, Pa.	 Belinda Eberhardt Hinds Oil City, Pa.	 Ray Caldwell William Carey Philadelphia, Pa.	 David Taylor Ole Miss Fredericksburg Assoc., Va.	 Raymond Jeffcoat William Carey Wheeling, W.V.	 Jan Halford MC Grand Teton N. Pk., Wyo.
 Randy Stephenson Blue Mountain Israel	 Kary Whitehead U. Med. Cen. Israel	 Hunter Huff MSU Israel	 Cecile Reeves USM Jordan	 Kim Cawthorn MC Nigeria							

Tithing and the budget

A pastor was preaching on a controversial subject. After the service, a man from the congregation challenged him on one of his statements. The pastor said, "But here is what it says in the Bible!" To which the gentleman responded, "I don't care what it says in the Bible!"

Do Baptists care what it says in the Bible? Most would never think of making a statement that we don't care what it says in the Bible. However, if we disregard what it says, what is the difference? James admonishes to "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does" (James 1:23-25).

Tithing requires planning. It is easy to spend every cent every week and totally ignore God and the church. One who lives like this is missing the blessing of God in his life.

Matters of the kingdom deserve first place in family budgets. Only when this kind of commitment occurs in one's hearts will budgets and bank accounts follow the same path.

Genesis 4:4 states that "Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering." The book of Hebrews notes "By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain . . . and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks" (Heb. 11:4).



Moses instructed the people saying, "You shall bring the choice first fruits of your soil into the house of the Lord your God . . ." (Ex. 23:19).

The wise man of Proverbs exhorts: "Honor the Lord from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce; So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine" (Prov. 3:9-10).

Put God first in the family budget and discover that nine-tenths goes further with God's blessings than ten-tenths without it!

"The tithe is the Lord's. It is holy unto the Lord" (Lev. 27:30).

(This series is prepared by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Stewardship office.)

NOBTS revival includes Price

NEW ORLEANS—Four leaders in preaching and evangelism will highlight the spring evangelism conference to be held at New Orleans Seminary Apr. 12-15.

Landrum P. Leavell, seminary president, along with Nelson Price, Cecil Randall, and Charles Harvey will offer discussions, seminars and lectures on the subject of evangelism needs in the contemporary church.

Price, newly elected president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, is the guest lecturer for the series. He has been pastor of the Roswell Street Church, Marietta, since 1965. Randall is professor, Roland Q. Leavell Chair of Evangelism, New Orleans Seminary. Charles Harvey is director of evangelism for the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

Baptist student leader training weekend planned

The Mississippi Baptist Student Union will be holding its 1983 Leadership Training Conference, Mar. 25-27 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, with the theme "Focus on Discipleship."

The weekend event, designed to train student leaders of BSU, will include election of 1983-84 state officers and commissioning of 65 BSU student missionaries. Current president is Anne Herrington, a student at Blue Mountain College.

Leader of a series of discipleship studies during each session of the conference, will be Chester Swor, Mississippi author and lecturer.

Avery Willis, a staffer of the Baptist Sunday School Board, in Nashville, will be featured speaker. His topics will be "Footsteps of Following Jesus" and "The Purpose of God."

Music leader for the weekend will be Ron Kurtz, minister of youth at First Church, Jackson.

A number of BSU groups will be presenting special music, including the University of Mississippi, Northwest Junior College, the University of Southern Mississippi, and Perkinson Junior College.

Tanzania reports spurt in Baptists

KYELA, Tanzania—After two years of leveling off, growth of Baptist churches in Tanzania took new spurt in 1982, increasing 25.6 percent to a total membership of 32,442.

The growth centered around 7,229 baptisms and a ratio of one new member for every 2.6 persons who were members at the beginning of the year, according to Evelyn Knapp, press representative for the Baptist Mission of Tanzania.



Swor
An orientation is planned for parents of student missionaries Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m.

Willis
The conference is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Student Work department.



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Through prayer God moves "in fresh way"

By Tim Nicholas

As many as 650 people attended a Prayer for Spiritual Awakening Conference at First Church, Kosciusko, sponsored by the Attala Association and the Mississippi Baptist Evangelism department recently, with J. Hardee Kennedy, Manley Beasley, and Guy Henderson as principal speakers.

The conference primarily concerned itself with the place of prayer in a spiritual awakening. Henderson, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Evangelism department, led participants in an abbreviated course or spiritual awakening, geared mainly to prayer. Hubert Greer, music evangelist from Brookhaven, led music.

Kennedy, vice president for academic affairs, emeritus at New Orleans Seminary, spoke on "The Prayer Answering God," "Jehovah is His Name," and "Spiritual Awakening in Nehemiah." Beasley, an evangelist from Dallas, discussed "Prayer and Faith" in four sessions.

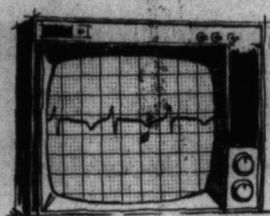
Beasley, who reported he had three terminal diseases in 1970, noted "when your doctor tells you're dying and you know you're dying, you take a second look (at healing)." He said that though his 20 years in Southern Baptist prayer meetings showed an average of 15 requests for prayer for the sick and two or three for the lost, "we are losing thousands of Baptists to the charismatics because we haven't addressed the issue of healing."

Said Beasley, "I had to resist the devil, tell him every day he was a liar... I didn't dictate to God; I simply found out what God was doing and joined him." Beasley said God made it clear to him, through the Bible that he would see his children's children.

In a testimony time, a number of people spoke up about how God was blessing their lives. One pastor spoke of praying for help in his marriage and "God moved into our home in a fresh way," he said, as many in the auditorium were moved to tears. Another spoke of claiming a lost man for Christ through prayer. And yet another, involved in an intercessory prayer ministry, noted he hadn't been praying with his wife, so the couple began praying "in one accord" and now "after 38 years (of marriage) has always been sweet, but now it's never been better," he said. One other spoke in favor of more church services offering a time for testimonies from the membership.

Ed Gandy, host pastor, told the group of his desire for revival, for the sake of Christians, for churches, for the country, and for the convention. "We are not loving one another like we should," he said. "We need revival."

Said Henderson of revival, "We just haven't really made up our minds we want one. We get on the edge, get spiritual blessings, and pull back." Henderson said such conferences as this help to show the necessity of prayer in order to have revival.



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The right to marry following divorce

One wrote recently that he/she was considering remarriage following divorce and that the question of rightness of this was already settled. I wonder where he/she gets that right from the scriptures. I have always been taught that after a divorce one was to remain single until the death of the former spouse or else they had no right to marry again. I wonder where the "right" came from? R.C.

Dear R.C.: We really do not know what the questioner thought or the circumstances of the previous marriage, what caused the death of the marriage or the justification of another. The party did not say remarry, as that would infer marrying the former spouse again. According to Deut. 24, this is forbidden by Mosaic law if the person has married another in the meantime.

There are those who interpret Matt. 19 as Jesus making an exception for the "innocent" party to marry again when the other is an adulterer. Many who hold this view, however, would say that adultery does not break the marriage if the innocent party desires to forgive and both desire to continue in the relationship. Some think that Paul allowed divorce for a believer who was deserted by an unbeliever. This, no doubt, happened often in the early church, as the orthodox Jew would declare the Christian an apostate and even a woman could get a divorce on those grounds. That is, the elders would command the man to divorce his wife and give her a bill of divorcement, called a "get," which

was both a deed of liberation and permission to marry another man.

There are others who teach that another marriage is an act of adultery against the first marriage, but they would not say that persons in the new relationship are living in adultery, as nowhere in the Bible is sexual relations between two people married to each other called adultery. Yet others would teach that if either party marries following divorce, he/she is assumed to be the adulterer and the other party is free to marry again. Still others think Matt. 19 suggests one should never marry following a divorce.

Some scholars do not consider these legalistic type considerations but simply say that God intended for marriage to be for life. But because imperfect people enter into this covenant, they sometimes fail. Such failure is sin, missing the mark of God's intention; but it is not the unpardonable sin. Like other sin, it can be forgiven, removed, and erased (cleansed) when confession and repentance is made.

Grace has the last word. This does not condone divorce but means that God, through the redemption in Christ, provides the way for restoration, rebuilding, and beginning again.

Possibly the person writing the previous letter felt his/her case would fit into one of the above views of scripture interpretation.

Address inquiries to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Thursday, March 17, 1983

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

He that complies against his will, is of his own opinion still, which he may adhere to, yet disown, for reasons to himself best known.—Butler.

To know that we know what we know, and that we do not know what we do not know, that is true knowledge.—Thoreau

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First sentence

PHILADELPHIA (EP)—Enten Eller, 21, a Church of the Brethren pacifist convicted of failing to register for the draft, has been sentenced to perform two years of free public service.

The judge denied a request by federal prosecutors that Eller be given a two-year prison sentence. He was the first person convicted since President Carter revived the standby draft registration in 1980.

World Lutherans grow

GENEVA, Switzerland (EP)—World-wide Lutheran membership increased by about 354,000 in 1982 to 68,853,481.

Extension okayed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The Accrediting Commission of the National Home Study Council (NHSC) has reaffirmed the accreditation of the correspondence arm of the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Department at the conclusion of a comprehensive review process.

Between 1,500 and 2,200 students per year received some basic theological education through the institute. At least 7,000 other students take Seminary Extension courses through centers across the United States.

Adventist shakeup

WASHINGTON (EP)—Approximately 95 officials of the Seventh Day Adventist Church were involved in questionable loans to Donald J. Davenport, a surgeon and builder, who has filed for bankruptcy owing the church \$18 million in loans and \$3 million in accrued interest.

According to world president Neal C. Wilson, a private letter of administrative disapproval and caution will be sent to one group of the 95. A second group will receive an administrative reprimand for neglect of fiduciary responsibility. The third group will not only receive open reprimand for neglect of fiduciary responsibility but will be asked to resign, transfer, or be reassigned.

Evangelism/Bible conference set for Greenville

(Continued from page 1)

for building the barn.

Seven counselors were authorized for the Minister's Care Program that is being put into operation by the Advisory Committee of the Department of Church-Minister Relations and Annuity. The counselors are Jack Folis, Meridian; David B. Grantham, Jackson; Kenneth R. Gilburth, Jackson; Macklyn W. Hubbell, New Orleans Seminary Counseling Center; Carroll Benton Freeman, New Orleans Seminary Counseling Center; and Milton Webb, Mid South Counseling Center, Memphis.

This program, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board through the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Advisory Committee, will offer counseling to ministers

Taiwan starts 17

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Taiwan Baptists started a record 17 churches in 1982, bringing total churches to more than 145 with a membership exceeding 12,000. Missionary Herbert Barker credited the jump in church starts to the Bold Mission Taiwan joint project of Taiwan and Missouri Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries.

The three-year project climaxes next fall in a nationwide church revival campaign. The new church starts were reported in January at the Chinese Baptist Convention annual session in Taipei.

Messengers elected Paul F. P. Kung convention chairman. Kung, a pastor, is a 74th-generation descendant of Confucius, the venerated Chinese philosopher.

Union gets estate

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)—A \$344,000 estate from a man who died 26 years ago has been received by Union University, a school affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

John Eppinger died in 1957 but his estate was not settled until his last remaining heir died last summer. The principal will be invested in the university's permanent endowment fund and the earned interest will underwrite student scholarships.

NOBTS emeriti

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Two longtime members of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary faculty have been granted emeritus status by the seminary's board of trustees—V. L. Stanfield who retired as professor of preaching in July of 1982 and John Olen Strange who retired Dec. 31.

Stanfield came to the seminary in August 1959, as professor of preaching from a similar position at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He and his wife, Verna, now live near Hattiesburg, Miss.

Strange was chairman of the division of biblical studies and professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at the time of his retirement. He had been a member of the faculty since 1953. Strange and his wife, Beth, live in Slidell, La.

in Mississippi who request it. The Executive Committee authorized a payment of \$20 per hour as the Convention Board's part of the counseling fee. Additional counseling fees will be paid by those seeking the counseling.

Art Nelson, comptroller for the Convention Board, reported interest income of \$480,000 last year as funds were placed in investment situations overnight and on weekends while waiting to be sent to their destination.

From Andrew Johnson, 17th President: "Great works are performed, not by strength but by perseverance. He that shall walk with vigor three hours a day, will pass in seven years a space equal to going around the globe." (So keep at what you're doing if you want to succeed.)

Meeting will tell how to get people to CT

A series of 15 sessions on "How to Get People to Come to Church Training" will be held on Mar. 28 and 29 in cities across Mississippi.

The series, sponsored by the Church Training department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will feature a number of leaders in Church Training, including staffers of the MBCB.

Each session will begin at 7 p.m., concluding at 9:30.

Chester Vaughn, program director of the MBCB, will lead sessions at First Church, Ripley, Mar. 28; and at Wheeler Grove Church, Alcorn Association, Mar. 29.

Velma Rhea Torbitt, associate minister of education and Church Training director at Bellevue Church, Memphis, will lead sessions at First Church, Verona on Mar. 28; and at First Church, Pontotoc, on Mar. 29.

James Webster, director of church services for Hinds-Madison Association, will lead sessions at Gregory Chapel in Monroe Association on March 28; and at Thrasher Church on Mar. 29.

Secretaries to hold banquet

The Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association is holding a banquet, Apr. 4, 6:30 p.m. at the Coliseum Ramada Inn, Jackson. The banquet is a part of the annual Secretaries Conference which meets in the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson Apr. 4-5.

The banquet theme will be "All Things Bright and Beautiful." Guest speaker will be James Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Tickets for the banquet are \$8.50 and need to be purchased in advance from the MBSA treasurer, Mrs. Ruth P. Keyes, Box 2749, Jackson, Miss., 39207. Checks should accompany requests for ticket.

Reception will honor Gambrell

A reception April 21 at the Baptist Bookstore in downtown Jackson will honor T. L. Gambrell, the manager of the book store, who will begin his retirement that day.

The reception will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 in the morning. The Baptist Bookstore in Jackson is located at the corner of Amite and President Streets.

Missionary makes "one last visit"

Alma Reid knew it was getting late but she made one last visit. A sleepy-eyed man opened the door but that didn't stop her. Before she knew it she was asking this Mexican to get his family out of bed so she could tell them about Jesus.

And he did. And the whole family, except the infant, accepted Christ that night. They went to bed as new believers because the emeritus Southern Baptist missionary made one last visit.

George Caldwell, retired Church Training director for Alabama Baptists, will lead sessions at Parkway Church, Houston on March 28; and at Trinity Church, Itawamba Association on Mar. 29.

Charles L. Norton, retired director of Church Training for Tennessee Baptists, will lead sessions at Hillcrest Church in Union County Association on Mar. 28; and at Tishomingo Church on Mar. 29.

Ken Mooney, Church Training director for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, will lead sessions at First Church, Nesbit, on March 28; and at Como Church on March 29.

Mose Dangerfield, Church Training director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will lead one session at Pittsboro Church on Mar. 28.

And Robin Nichols, consultant in the Mississippi Church Training department, will lead a session at First Church, Marks, on Mar. 28 and another session on a new date, Thursday, Mar. 24, at Riverside Church in Riverside Association.

SS sponsors officers' clinics



Webster

Carter

The Mississippi Baptist Sunday School department is sponsoring four adult class officers' clinics. James Webster, church services director for the Hinds-Madison association will be conducting the Clinic at First Church, Natchez on April 25 and at First Church, Meridian on April 26.

Tom Carter, minister of education of Spring Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., will be conducting the clinic at First Church, Biloxi on May 2 and at First Church, Magee, on May 3. The clinics will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude at 9 p.m.

The purpose of the clinics is to provide training for all adult class officers. This will include teachers, class outreach leaders, group leaders and secretaries. An informal teaching arrangement will be utilized with active participation from the conferees.

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Pastor, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile

Fred Wolfe

Pastor, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile

Ron Herrod

Pastor, First Baptist Church, Kenner, La.

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Editorials

It wasn't 'Madalyn Murray O'Hair this time

by don mcgregor

The saga of Madalyn Murray O'Hair keeps rolling along, and nobody knows why. Just when the Federal Communications Commission thought their flood of mail concerning the well-known Texas atheist had been reduced to a trickle, the rumors began to surface again.

Pastors in widely separated portions of the state have called recently to say that members have brought petitions concerning Mrs. O'Hair to them and asked if there were any substance to them. In a word, the answer is no.

Mrs. O'Hair has been credited for about eight years with initiating action that she had nothing to do with. In fact, the petition that she is supposed to have filed with the Federal Communi-

cations Commission was not filed by anybody.

The story that has been floating around since 1975 is that Mrs. O'Hair had petitioned the FCC to eliminate all religious programming from the airwaves. Another factor of the petition was supposed to have been a protest of the astronauts reading from the Bible as they orbited the moon.

All of this is supposed to have been presented to the FCC in a petition numbered RM 2493. It all begins to become cloudy when one realizes that there actually was an RM 2493 that actually had something to do with religion on the airwaves. In 1963, however, we need to realize that the petition was filed in 1974, nine years ago, and it was

not filed by Mrs. O'Hair. It was filed by two men from California, Jeremy D. Lansman and Lorenzo W. Milam. It did not seek to have all religious programs thrown off the air but instead sought to have the FCC not license any NEW television stations or radio stations that would use only a religious format.

The FCC rejected this petition on Aug. 1, 1975, by a unanimous vote. Mrs. O'Hair was not involved at all, the petition did not seek to have all religious programming thrown off the air, and the petition not to license any new religious stations was denied.

Just to be sure, I called the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs one more time to ask if the rumor had any

substance. In turn, Baptist Joint Committee staffers had checked only a week earlier in order to be sure for themselves. There is no substance to the rumor.

So, hopefully, we can let the Federal Communications Commission go about its business in a more orderly fashion now without having to deal with a million letters a year about a bogus petition.

The plea stated that it would take a million letters to remedy the problem. And the million letters arrived—year after year. The FCC had to hire extra help and spend a great deal of money dealing with the situation.

No doubt, they are hoping all of that is behind them.

Good work in the Legislature

The Legislature is doing its work very well. It is up to us now to let the members of the Legislature know that we support them.

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have passed bills that would put stiffer penalties on driving under the influence of alcohol and seek to curb the proliferation of pornography.

The versions of the two houses are slightly different. In each case it was the Senate that acted last on a bill that had already passed the House. In each case the Senate altered the bills to some degree. Most of the alterations

were in the nature of strengthening the bills.

Now there is a choice of two courses of action in the Legislature. Either the House can accept the version of the bills as adopted by the Senate, and the bills will be ready for the governor's signature; or the House can refuse to accept the changes to their own bill, and a conference committee will be necessary.

If there can be no agreement, the bills will die. The deadline is March 24. For those bills to die now would be a tragedy.

The Senate versions are acceptable.

The best course of action at this time, and the least confusing and least time consuming, would be for the House to accept the Senate versions.

A number of Mississippians in every legislative district in the state should be in touch with their representatives this week to let them know that a pornography bill and a DUI bill are both needed and desired. Perhaps the House would tend to favor its own bill as it was adopted without a dissenting vote. But time is a factor at this juncture, and we need those bills.

We call on the House to accept the Senate amendments and send the two

bills to the governor for a signature. The two bills will go a long way toward making Mississippi a better place in which to live.

And we commend the members of both houses of the Legislature for passing these two bills that will mean so much to every citizen of our state who drives on our highways or who might find his life affected by pornography if it is allowed to continue or to grow in its influence. The legislators handled their tasks with reason and with responsibility. Let's let them know we appreciate it.

Guest opinion

By B. F. Smith

Hold that match! You're fixing to burn a part of your history. You've worked hard to whittle that debt down, and now that it has reached zero you're ecstatic. You can't wait to put the torch to that pesky note that has tormented you.

But think a minute. That heroic struggle is part of your heritage. Are

you sure you want to destroy the evidence of the love and sacrifice that gave you that beautiful sanctuary (or renovation or pastor's home or family life building, or whatever)?

"Behold, I show you a more excellent way!" How about framing that note, marked PAID in big letters, and putting it on the wall near the bulletin board? With maybe a little sticker at-

tached showing the amount of the original debt and how long it took to pay it off? Then faithful givers and the trustees who signed the note can smile in relief and gratitude every time they pass it on the way to morning worship. And your children will be reminded that victory does not come without patience and serving. And new members will know they have joined a fellowship that can dream.

You don't really want to forget, do you, "Now that the tempest is over, now that the darkness has passed"? Instead of a note-burning ceremony, how about having the congregation sing the "Doxology" while the treasurer and the church historian hold the canceled note up high?

B. F. Smith is director of missions in Perry Association.

A "burning" issue

Those who are blessed

By A. L. Nelson

Matthew 7:20—"Therefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek" (Matthew 5:5) and also criticized the Pharisees for their narrow-minded, legalistic, dogmatic, self-righteous, unloving attitude.

Someone has said, "What a person is

speaks so loud that one cannot hear what he says." The acid test of a person's Christianity is what the persons who work for him, the persons he works with, and his family with whom he lives feels about him and his Christian spirit.

True love cannot be bought, sold, or pretended; neither can one love be-

cause one is supposed to. True love is gentle, kind, trusting, does not harm, and is a gift of God. True love leads—it does not drive. Effective leaders lead rather than drive. Whipping a horse may make him run faster, but whipping a human will only cause him to become angry and often less productive. Human beings can forgive; but,

unlike God, they cannot forget.

If people would spend more time in caring for each other than in trying to change each other, it would be a much happier world.

A. L. Nelson is comptroller-business manager for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Letters to the Editor

Good Mississippians (Samaritans)

Editor:

I wish to commend the many good "Samaritans" who were a part of a pleasant experience during my recent illness in Jackson.

As many of you have learned by now, while I was in revival at the Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, I had a serious rupture of a blood vessel in my throat and remained in intensive care for four days in the Hinds General Hospital in Jackson.

The ministry of Dr. Kermit McGregor and his fine congregation and many other pastors and laymen in your city was outstanding. The excellent medical care that I received at Hinds General Hospital under the watchful eyes of the fine Christian doctors like Dr. W. J. Patterson and Dr. Boyd Massey was indeed the finest.

There are so many people who went so far beyond the call of duty, it is impossible to express our full thanks to all of them. Thank you, Mississippi Baptists, for your care for God's ser-

vant during the time of illness.

My rapid recovery began on Wednesday evening during prayer meeting as many of your churches and churches across the nation prayed for us. God has granted complete healing, and I began revival service again this week. Thanks for your Christian love and concern.

Bill Hartley, evangelist
Birmingham, Alabama

Convention in Las Vegas

Editor:

On Page 2 of the March 2 issue, there is a article by Dan Martin indicating that some of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee members have voted to recommend Las Vegas, Nev., as the site for the 1989 annual meeting.

I feel it is so unwise to attract people to such a city of sin. I am sure there are many Christian people there, but to see all the ungodly actions in such a place is depressing.

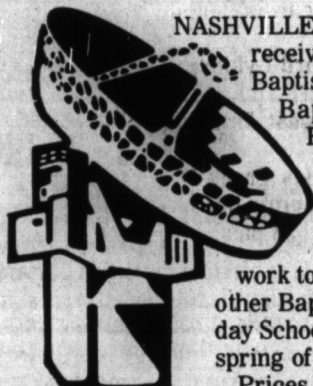
I have a son who is a Baptist minister, and for years he has looked forward to attending the convention, taking his family, and having a vacation along with the spiritual blessings of attending the convention; and I know other preachers do the same.

I have been to Las Vegas and to see all the slot machines, gambling devices, and things that I feel our precious Lord would not approve of children seeing. I pray that other Christian people will express their concern for a more decent place for our Southern Baptist Convention to meet.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Walters
Route 4, Box 255
Forest, MS 39074

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words, and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record.

Telecommunication prices are less than projected



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Prices for satellite television receive only systems (TVROs) for use with Southern Baptists' American Christian Television System and Baptist TelNet were announced Feb. 16 by Broadman Press of the Sunday School Board.

ACTS is a satellite television network to homes being developed by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. Baptist TelNet is a telecommunications network to churches, associations, state conventions and other Baptist groups which will be operated by the Sunday School Board. Both are due to be operational by the spring of 1984.

Prices were announced for three-, four- and five-meter parabolic dishes and will be available at prices including installation or to be shipped for local installation.

The minimum equipment needed for Baptist TelNet—a three-meter TVRO and installation, one television monitor and one videotape player/recorder—would cost approximately \$4,000 from Broadman. This total is considerably lower than earlier projections of \$12,000 to \$16,000.

"We are pleased prices have been greatly reduced from original estimates," said Grady C. Cothen, Sunday School Board president. "This should enable a larger number of churches and associations to participate in Baptist TelNet."

He said Baptist TelNet training topics will include family ministry, deacon training, missions emphases, stewardship education and others related to all facets of church programs.

A three- or four-meter dish will be needed for Baptist TelNet, depending upon location. A four- or five-meter dish is needed for churches or associations which will be feeding ACTS programs to cable systems or which will function as low-power stations. Five meter dishes also will be able to receive Baptist TelNet programs.

All Broadman TVROs will be produced by Starview, a subsidiary of Craig Electronics, Compton, Calif. Broadman three-meter TVROs will sell for \$2,295 or \$2,795 installed. Shipping charges will be \$100.

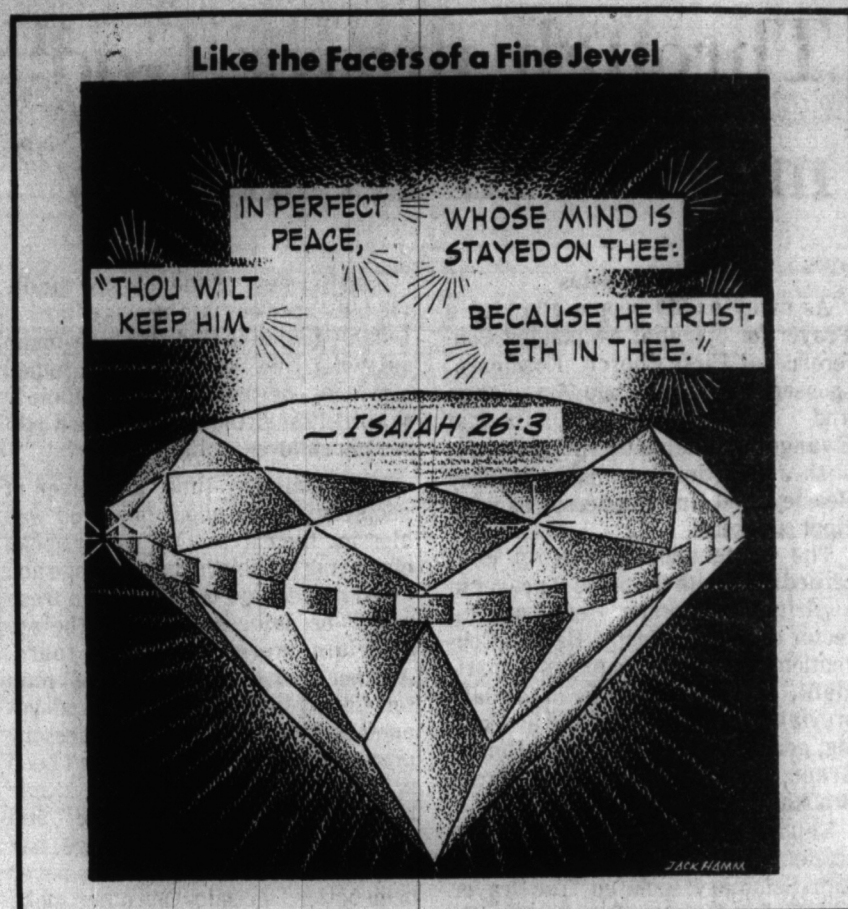
Four-meter TVROs will cost \$3,395, or \$3,995 installed, with a shipping charge of \$175. Five-meter dishes will cost \$5,895, or \$7,795 installed. Shipping charges have not yet been determined for five-meter dishes.

All TVROs include a parabolic dish antenna, polar mount, feedhorn, 100 degree low-noise amplifier, electric polarizer, receiver with modulator and 100 feet of cable.

Options available at extra cost include motorized tracker package, microwave receiver with modulator, computer site survey or on-site surveys. Surveys will be needed primarily in downtown locations to test microwave interference but will not be required in most suburban, town and rural locations.

Broadman already sells television monitors and videotape player/recorders for as low as \$485 and \$695, respectively.

Cothern said package prices which will include TVROs, monitors and player/recorders will be announced around June 1, prior to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Pittsburgh. Subscription prices for programs also will be announced around June 1.



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Miracle in Montevideo

When I read the letter in last week's BR from Jeanie Benfield, about a miracle in Montevideo, I was transported to a Baptist camp in northwest Argentina, where I met Jeanie, missionary to Uruguay, and her son, Greg. In her letter she said, "Dr. John L. McNair, SBC missionary from Mississippi, has been invited by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Montevideo, Uruguay, to assume the role of associate professor of neuro-anatomy. He is to establish a lab and direct a brain research team of five physicians. This new lab will be the first of its kind in South America to use and teach a newly developed technique of brain research."

October in Argentina was engulfed by the scents of spring. John McNair had been sitting with others on the grass by a little willow-draped creek. He came to meet me as I started to the camp dining hall for supper, and the sun hovered low in a purple haze over the distant rocky mountains. "Tell the people of Mississippi to keep praying for missionaries," he urged. "Tell them that God really does hear. What he has done in Uruguay lately can be called nothing but a miracle." And he told me the story.

He and Kathy had been appointed first to India, and then transferred to Spain. Problems arose on renewing their visas for Spain when they were back in Mississippi. "I began to get discouraged," he confided. "I was almost ready to ask, 'Lord, did I misunderstand you? Were you really asking me to be a missionary in another country?'" In July, 1981, the Foreign Mission Board sent them to Uruguay, another Spanish-speaking land, but they went on faith that somehow he would find a place to teach medicine. Kathy would be teaching music at the Baptist seminary in Montevideo. (The two sang in 40 concerts between July and November.)

Everyone in the Uruguay Baptist Mission wondered how John could best approach obtaining a Faculty of Medicine position. In the history of evangelical work in Uruguay, there had never been any missionary connected officially with any agency of the government. Besides, the university system is carefully controlled and guarded.

In mid-July they went through the public health examinations to get a health certificate, to apply for residency. Others advised them to avoid the grueling public health ordeal and

to go to a private hospital. "We decided to go the public health route," John said. "We felt very strongly about it." After five hours of standing in lines, he heard his number called and entered a stall in the examining area. A young nice-looking doctor began asking him routine questions, but when he heard that John was a medical professor from the U.S., he looked up and began conversing in English. He asked John's reason for being there. It turned out that he had a friend who was a neurosurgeon and new head of that division of the government hospital and who had important connections with the president of Uruguay. They talked for more than an hour.

John continued to try to think of a way to get the teaching job. About two weeks later, he and Kathy prayed at noon that God would reveal to him the right time to seek an interview. That afternoon at 3 the doorbell rang. There stood the doctor from public health.

"Listen to this," John grasped my arm—"The doctor said, 'I have taken the liberty to make an appointment for you with Chief of Neurosurgery.'"

Two days later he lunched with the young doctor, toured the hospital, and was ushered into a conference room where eleven doctors waited to see him. Suddenly he realized that they were a tribunal who planned to examine him orally on the spot—with no previous notice.

"I could have been nervous, but I constantly breathed a prayer, and God sustained me." Though he did not know this, all the Baptist missionaries of Uruguay were praying audibly for him at that time, ones at the interior praying by phone with those in Montevideo. Kathy had alerted them that he had gone to the hospital, though none, of course, knew the examination was coming. Also someone got word to Paraguay, and missionaries there were praying, too. John remembered, "I did not know about those prayers, but I felt the presence of God so strongly that afternoon."

The position can have far reaching results and strengthen Baptist witness to a segment of society that before has had very little evangelical witness.

"There is no doubt in my mind that only the Lord could have opened these doors," said John. "My prayer is that God will give me the strength and the courage to meet the challenges of this great responsibility that has been entrusted to me."

Woman's Missionary Union

(Continued from page 1)

TUESDAY AFTERNOON — ACCOUNTABLE — to go

1:15	Prelude	Mrs. Pray
1:30	Hymns of Praise	McDaniel, Mrs. Pray and Mrs. Richardson
	Prayer	Mrs. Richard Davis
	Theme Interpretation	Mrs. Fling
	ACCOUNTABLE — to go	
	WE WENT TO THE RIO DE LA PLATA	Mrs. Robert Dent
		Mrs. Bill Durr, Mrs. W. D. McWilliams

	Hymn	Mr. McDaniel
	Special Music	
	MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATIONS AT WORK — Panel of directors of associational missions:	
	Levon Moore, Attala	
	Marvin Bibb, Calhoun	
	Ray Ming, representing Warren	
	Leon Young, Lauderdale	
	Allen Webb, Jackson County	
	John McBride, panel co-ordinator	
	ACCOUNTABLE — to go	
	Postlude	The Lighthouse Players

TUESDAY NIGHT — ACCOUNTABLE — to pray

6:45	Prelude	Mrs. Pray
7:00	Hymns of Praise	Mr. McDaniel, Mrs. Pray, and Mrs. Richardson
	Prayer	Mrs. Lee Bruce
	Theme Interpretation	Mrs. Fling
	ACCOUNTABLE — to pray	
	Mini-concert	Mr. McDaniel
	HOME MISSIONS IN CALIFORNIA	Mrs. Staver
	MY SERVICE ON THE HOME MISSION BOARD	Mrs. Kimble
		Mrs. Kimble Sutherland

	Hymn	Mrs. Polnac
	AT WORK IN IDAHO	
	ACCOUNTABLE — to pray	The Lighthouse Players
	Postlude	Mrs. Pray

Monday and Tuesday evening sessions will be interpreted for the deaf. Tuesday evening will feature "Meet the Missionaries" for GAs and Acteens in the area. No child-care planned at hostess church. Make plans for child-care in home church.

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Midway puppet ministry "no small scale operation"

(Continued from page 1)
pets and equipment. The church pays for all teams' transportation.

Four of the "committed 18" have been licensed to preach: Dennis Atwood, Darrell Baughn, John Herring, and Frank Marquis. Mike Copeland hopes to be a youth and activities director. Tim Atwood and Ladonna Calloway want to be missionaries. The others are David Baughn, Diann Chisolm, Charlotte Hendon, Dana Kennedy, Ben Preston, Melissa Ratcliff, Robin Ratliff, Scott Ratliff, Cindy Sartin, Teresa Warren, and Gill Watkins, Jr. Other young people in the church also contribute their talents as needed.

Ministries.

The teams have several ongoing ministries: preaching at Gateway Rescue Mission and Ingewood Nursing Home, Jackson, and visiting at Care Inn, Clinton. They have conducted worship services at Linwood (Neshoba) and Franklin (Madison) and have been invited to do future services at Plainway, Laurel, and First, Bolton. A quartet sang for a January Bible Study session at Broadmoor, Jackson. Others entertained for a hayride at Calvary, Vicksburg, and for Valentine banquets at First, Kos-

ciusko; and Eastside, Pearl.

"The entertainment given is spiritual, and programs are directed toward winning the lost to Christ and drawing Christians to a closer walk with the Lord," said Gill Watkins, director of activities and youth.

Ladonna Calloway, MC junior who was a Home Mission Board missionary last summer in Mason City, Iowa, said, "The staff of Midway has been a big support in our youth work."

Sweden

The pastor, Benton Preston, led in a volunteer mission to Sweden last fall, at the invitation of the Foreign Mission Board and in connection with the partnership missions emphasis. He and five young men (Dennis Atwood, Tim Atwood, John Herring, Frank Marquis, and Gill Watkins, Jr.) spoke in public schools in Stockholm and led in meetings at Bromma Baptist Church, such as a youth rally. "We were able to speak freely in the schools, of our beliefs," said Preston. Also they visited residents of an apartment complex, witnessing and distributing tracts.

An adult couple who also went, Bernice and Horace Newcomb, worked with residents of a retirement home.

The Bromma pastor has since reported that, as a result of the mission, some persons they reached have started attending his church and some new discussion groups have been started. Midway paid the young men's travel expenses. The pastor and the Newcombs paid their own.

Youths on Midway's evangelism teams are mostly of college age or older, said Herman Milner, Jr., minister of music and education. About 60 are enrolled in the college and career Sunday School department and 38 in youth choirs. Milner said that the youths are active in their own church as well as in going out to others. They help in VBS, give stewardship testimonies, and teach children in Sunday School.

"We are proud of our young people," said the pastor. "These evangelism teams give them a wide range of experience. I wish I could have had this type of experience before I became a pastor."

Midway Youth Evangelists may be reached by mail at Midway Baptist Church, 5609 Clinton Blvd., Jackson, Miss 39209 or by telephone at 922-3064 or 922-5967.



Glen Eaves (left), dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Mississippi College, congratulates ITT International Fellowship winner Claude Smith, as chemistry professor, John Legg, and French teacher, Debbie Pierce, look on.

MC senior awarded fellowship in France

Mississippi College senior chemistry major Claude Smith has been awarded an ITT International Fellowship for a year of study and research in France. He is one of 25 American recipients of such fellowships.

Smith, son of Baptist missionaries to Brazil, William and Carolyn Smith, will be conducting research in the field of thiophene derivatives, a group of substances found in some drugs, which has application for understanding renal damage in humans. Smith's father is from Amite County, Miss., and is a graduate of Mississippi College.

Administered through the Institute of International Education, the ITT International Fellowship Program is the largest international scholarship program sponsored by a private corporation. The recipients of these fellowships are drawn from among the applicants for Fulbright Fellowships. However, the ITT Fellowships provide larger grants than the Fulbright, and

are privately rather than publicly funded.

The fellowship will provide tuition and living expenses for a year at the Ecole Normale Supérieure near Paris. It was required by France that the student be conversant in the French language. Consequently, Debbie Trotter, French professor at MC and daughter of Mississippi missionaries, Edd and Freda Trotter of Brazil, personally tutored Smith in French.

In commenting on the award, Glen Eaves, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at MC, said, "This fellowship is one of the highest academic honors which can come to a United States student." Smith will begin his study in France next September.

Percy Cooper dies of heart attack

Funeral services for Percy M. Cooper, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church of Walnut Grove, were held March 5, at Springfield Baptist Church in Scott County. Cooper died March 3 of a heart attack. Dewie Williams, chaplain at the Cummins Unit of the Arkansas Penitentiary, brought the message, based on the charge presented to him in his 1945 ordination by his pastor, Percy Cooper, then of Jackson's Southside Baptist Church. Music was presented by Bob Reno, minister of education at South Louisville Baptist Church, Louisville. Also assisting in the service were Henry Adams, Leake County director of missions, and James Watts, pastor of Springfield, Cooper's home church.

After arriving in Jackson in May, 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Percy M. Cooper struggled to start a church in the South. Sept. 7, 1939, that endeavor was organized into Southside Baptist Church. His ministry included pastorates in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Following retirement Jan. 31, 1978, he served as interim at West Philadelphia Church, Philadelphia, and then had been pastor over four years at Emmanuel, Walnut Grove.

Cooper is survived by his wife of 47 years, Ardue M. Cooper, and their daughter, Mary Ann Cooper, both of Carthage; two brothers, W. P. and Tillman, and a sister, LaVera Hillman.

(Note: In an earlier story in the Baptist Record, the date of Percy Cooper's death was incorrect.)

Salvation Army food pantries help feed nation's "new poor"

NEW YORK (EP)—Salvation Army feeding programs throughout the United States have expanded substantially during the past year, reaching out to the "new poor" created by high unemployment while maintaining its ministry to those who have long been

at the bottom of the economic ladder, a Salvation Army news reported states.

Food pantries are the most common form of assistance, although the "soup kitchen" type of operation in many divisions has been more visible. Food pantries, which involve the stocking

and distribution of groceries, may range from a modest closet of staples to sophisticated large-scale programs involving tons of food.

Because these programs are carried out on the local level, national statistics for 1982 are not yet available. In 1981, 7,452,908 meals were served to 3,548,098 persons in the Army's category of "casework services." This refers to persons applying for emergency assistance and does not include meals served at day care centers, to persons enrolled in rehabilitation programs, to those living in Army residences, to disaster victims, or special nutrition programs for the elderly. (In 1981, 2,417,537 meals were served to senior citizens at Army centers and 465,088 were delivered to the homebound.)

National Headquarters estimates that the 1983 figures will show more than 10 million meals served to some five million persons in the emergency assistance category, while many others will have been aided through food pantries.

Pollard to preach in area revival

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., and the newly elected president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., will be evangelist for the area revival to be held at the Greenwood-Leflore Civic Center, Greenwood, April 10-15. Pollard is a former pastor of First Baptist Church,

Missionaries on furlough

Mississippi missionaries now on furlough are: Major and June McDaniel, Korea, 818 Main St., Natchez, Miss. 39120; Thomas and Hazel Barron, Indonesia, 407 N. 38th Ave., Hattiesburg 39401; John and Elizabeth Merritt, Germany, 100 Georgia Ave., Hattiesburg 39401; John and Sarah Perkins, France, 5317 McCoy Drive, Jackson 39211;

Thomas and Marilyn Nabors, Israel, 207 Washington St., Starkville 39759; Karl and Peggy Wallace, Peru, 715 E. Northside Drive, Jackson 39206;

Martha and Richard Beal, Venezuela, 416 Ford, Columbia 39429; Bob and Flora Holifield, Italy, 2334 Coronet Place, Jackson, 39204; Raymond and Ann Kolb, Brazil, 117 Trailwood Drive, Clinton 39056; James and Zelma Foster, Surinam, 4232 Carter Circle, Jackson 39209.

Parkway singles announce banquet

Singles at Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson, are sponsoring a banquet for singles and their leaders, of the church and area. The banquet will be on March 25 at 7 p.m.; the cost will be \$4. This is for never married, as well as for single again.

The program will feature Sam Gore,

head of the art department at Mississippi College, Gore, a sculptor, painter, and professor, will model the head of Christ in clay. He is a member of First Baptist Church, Clinton.

David Claxton went to Parkway on Feb. 1 as minister of singles. He is also the church's minister of evangelism.

Revival Dates

Central (Tishomingo): March 27-April 1; Tom Sumrall, evangelist; Clyde Greer, music director; Ralph Culp, pastor.

West Shady Grove (Webster): March 20-23; Barney O'Neal, pastor, evangelist; Harold Rowe, directing the music; special music each service.

Faith Memorial Church, Poplarville (Pearl River): March 20-24; at 7 p.m. Sun.-Thurs.; Rick Cagle, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Ala., evangelist; Mickey Robertson, music minister at Olive Church, Lumberton, leading music; Clifford Lazenby, interim pastor.

First, Stonewall: March 27-April 1; J. W. Coker, pastor, South Side Baptist Church, Andalusia, Ala., evangelist; Mark Jones, minister of music, First, Stonewall, music evangelist; services at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Albert McMullen, pastor.

First Church, McLain: March 27-April 1; services at 7:30 p.m.; Hal Bates, pastor of Eastside Church, Belzoni, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale, music evangelist; David Briscoe, pastor.

Big Ridge, Biloxi: March 20-25; Pete Carlisle, evangelist, pastor of Charleston Baptist Church, Dawson Springs, Ky.; Bob Gilmore, directing the music; services Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. 7:15 p.m.; Robert M. Carlisle, pastor.

Second, Indianola: March 20-25; Manuel Weeks, pastor of Second Church, Greenville, evangelist; Keith Stevens, minister of music at Second, Greenville, song leader; services at noon at 7 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; Billy J. Beckett, pastor.

Puckett Church: March 20-23; Gary Bowlin of Brandon, evangelist; Richard Sparks, leading music; Sunday, High Attendance Day in Sunday School and Church Training; services at 7:30 week nights; Jim Carr, pastor.

Calvary Church, Silver Creek: March 27-April 1; evening services at 7; covered dish dinner Sunday following morning service; guest preacher: Jerry E. Oswalt, pastor, Second Avenue, Laurel; guest music director: Tom Shows, Soso; Garry M. Breland, pastor.

Calvary Church, Louin (Jasper): March 21-25; Charles Williams, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Billy Partridge, pastor.

First, Sardis (Panola): family growth and renewal revival; March 18-20; Eddie Prince, pastor, Oak Grove, Hernando, evangelist; Mary Betts, Memphis, Tenn., singer; Claude Howe, interim pastor; Joe Meurrier, minister of music and activities; first service on Fri., March 18, at 7 p.m., followed by family film in

East Annex: family potluck supper, on Sat., Mar. 19, at 6 p.m.; Sat. night service at 7; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Liberty Church, Liberty: March 25, 26, 27; Robin Jumper, evangelist; Kent Miller, music; Charles Holifield, pastor.

Drivers' Flat Church (Calhoun): March 3, 31, April 1; Billy Hill, bringing the messages; Fern Inman, music director, Mrs. Versal Taylor, pianist; Dero Bollinger, pastor.

First Church, Richland (Rankin): March 27-30; 11 a.m., Sunday; 7 nightly; James Duggins, pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., guest evangelist; Hubert Greer, Brookhaven, music evangelist; Mel C. Craft, pastor; Simeon Nix, minister of music and youth; Dale Sauls, minister of education.

Holly Springs, Foxworth: March 18, 19, 20; Ray Hodges of Crooked Creek Church, preaching; regular morning service, Sunday, March 20, plus dinner on the grounds and afternoon service.

Lizana, Gulfport: March 20-23; Jimmy D. Porter, First, Louisville, evangelist; Michael Snowden, Gulfport, music evangelist; Sunday 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; week nights 7; Gerald H. Walker, pastor.

Bay Vista Baptist Church, Biloxi: (Gulf Coast Association in simultaneous revivals) March 20-25; evangelist, Guy Henderson, director, Evangelism department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; music director, Hubert Greer; services nightly at 7 and noon, 12-12:50; Clyde Little, pastor.

Providence Church near Jayess: March 18, 19, 20; Fri. and Sat. at 7 p.m.; regular services Sunday and lunch served at noon; Ralph Cranford of Columbia, former pastor at Providence, evangelist; music under direction of Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Sandifer, music director and pianist at the church; John L. Carlisle, pastor.

Lawrence Baptist Church, Lawrence: March 20-23; Charles Maples, evangelist; Marion Felton, music evangelist; Sunday 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; week nights at 7; Paul Oglesbee, pastor.

First, Yazoo City: March 20-23; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. at 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; William G. (Bill) Tanner, president, Home Mission Board, SBC, Atlanta, Ga., evangelist; Alan Celoria, Jackson, music evangelist; James F. Yates, pastor.

New Providence, Hazlehurst: youth revival; March 25-27; Jerry Webber, minister of youth, First Baptist Church, Magnolia, guest preacher; Greg Hearn, of Jackson, music director; services at 7:30 p.m. and 11 a.m.; Gordon Shamburger, interim pastor.

James Fountain, new pastor at First Church, Merigold, and his family have moved on the field. He is a native of Mobile, Ala. and attended the University of South Alabama. At present, he is a student at Mid-America Baptist Seminary, Memphis, Tenn.

Staff Changes

Linwood Baptist Church, Neshoba County, has called Johnny Collins as pastor. Collins is a graduate of Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla., and of William Carey College. He has served pastorates in Georgia and Alabama. His wife, Patricia, is from Chunky, Miss.

Elam Church of Coffeeville, Yalobusha County, has called Bill Henderson as pastor. Henderson will move there from the Pontotoc area, where he was pastor of the Cairo Baptist Church. He is a native of Mississippi, and returned to the state three years ago after 10 years of service near Jonesboro, Ark. He attended Clarke and Mississippi College.

Roger Stacy of First Baptist Church, Blanding, Utah, has accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Box 584, Black Hawk, S.D. Stacy is a native of Pontotoc, Miss. He has been serving with the Home Mission Board, SBC, for two and one-half years.

Doug Stokes has been called as minister of music at Lawrence Baptist Church, Lawrence, Miss. He is a student at Clarke College, majoring in religious education and music.

Donald Tharp has resigned as pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Pearl, to become pastor of Easthaven Baptist Church, Richland. While Tharp was at Tabernacle for 4½ years, 56 people were added to the church. Tharp is a graduate of Clarke College and East Texas Baptist University. He attended New Orleans Seminary.

Jackson. Larry Black, music minister, First Baptist Church, Jackson, and Edwin Sudduth, musician, Ashland Baptist Church, Ashland, will be in charge of the music.

"Christ Now—For Eternity" will be the theme of the crusade, which will begin at 7 nightly.

Wayne King has resigned as pastor of Providence Baptist Church, Grenada County. He has accepted a pastorate near Savannah, Tenn.

Dillard Lykins has resigned as pastor of Fairhaven Baptist Church, Northwest Association.

Moak's Creek Baptist Church, Lincoln County, has called Joseph Wayne McNeil as pastor. McNeil, a native of South Carolina, expects to be graduated from New Orleans Seminary in May, 1983.

Temple Baptist Church, Forest, has called Jeff Brantley as pastor. He had been serving there as interim. Twenty-five years ago, while pastor of the Forest Baptist Church, Brantley helped to organize Temple Church. From Forest, he moved to Jackson. Later, while in business in Hazlehurst, he served interim pastorates and began a radio ministry. Eight years ago, he moved back to Scott County and added the Forest station to his radio program, "Gospel Gems," which is still heard on WJYV each Sunday at 8:05 a.m., and also was called to the pastorate of New Home Baptist Church, Scott County. Before entering the ministry, Brantley was a professional baseball player.

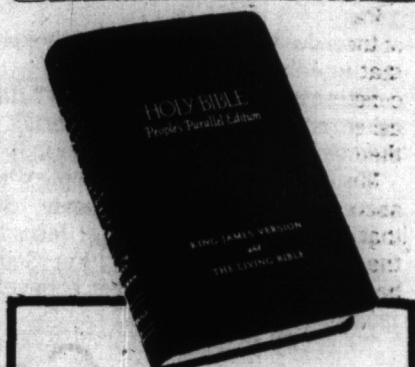
Don Holder has accepted the call of New Garden Baptist Church, Northwest Association, to become its pastor.

Barry Ward has accepted the pastorate of First Church, Guntown, in Lee County. He is moving there from the pastorate of Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce.

Jimmie Dee Garrard has accepted the pastorate of Greens Creek Baptist Church, Petal. He goes from the Bethany pastorate near Meridian.

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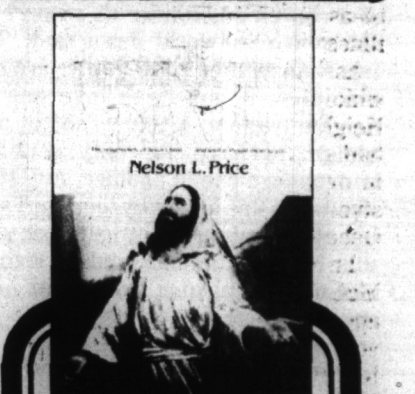
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Devotional Look! No hands!

By Ken Marler, pastor, First, Houston, Miss.
John 3:16

One of the most thrilling and exciting times quickly became one of the most embarrassing.

It was a red bicycle. As a youngster, I loved to ride my bicycle. The neighborhood was conducive to it, and it was the best way to get around. I was on my way home that summer afternoon. There was an audience as I rode with "no hands"—the thrill of being in the spotlight, showing off, displaying my skills! While doing this I was not watching where I was going. Bruises, of my body and my feelings, were the result. That bicycle crashed into a parked car. Parked; no driver; legally parked; it was not at fault, I was.

Slowly I picked myself and my red bike up. It was bent; I was bruised; we walked home. The whole episode could've been much more enjoyable if I had just looked where I was going.

I wonder how many of us really know where we are going. Let's consider our spiritual lives.

Where are you going spiritually? Have you considered it? Goals are important as we serve God. Bold Mission Thrust, 8.5 by '85 are goals to be reached. They will only be reached by you and me individually.

Jesus encountered many people who had no idea where they were going. They just coasted along with "no hands." Surely God doesn't want you to be like that.

Watch where you are going! Jesus told Nicodemus to stop coasting along with "no hands" when he said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

We really do have a goal as we share John 3:16 with the world?

Sunday School Board opens job program

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A short-term jobs program has been announced under the sponsorship of the Sunday School Board to provide aid for up to 150 unemployed persons.

Grady C. Cothen, president, said the program was initiated out of concern for people with families faced by bleak prospects for sufficient food and shelter because of long-term unemployment.

The program will be available to unemployed persons in the Nashville area and in cities where the board's 65

bookstores and two conference centers are located.

"This jobs program is by no means charity," Cothen said. "It is a pay-for-work program. All of the assignments are tasks which will benefit the work of the Sunday School Board identified as areas of need. Since the Sunday School Board is a Christian organization, it seemed reasonable and right for us to do something."

Cothen said applications for work at the Sunday School Board in a three-month period last fall were three times the usual number, giving the personnel department almost 3,000 additional applications on file.

All persons are being hired for a maximum of four weeks at a salary slightly above the minimum wage. Cothen said he expects approximately 150 persons to be hired into the jobs program, with the cost of the program not to exceed \$100,000.

An additional benefit to persons employed under the program should be the gaining of valuable experience in a work area. Cothen said this also could provide the board with a backlog of experienced persons in areas where it might need employees in the future.

MK birthday prayer calendar

March 28—Kevin C. Peacock (Korea), Mississippi College.

Homecomings

Carmel Baptist Church, Monticello, homecoming this year on May 1; this date is being planned instead of the fourth Sunday in March as in years past; Robert Dunn, pastor.

Bible Book

Accepting those who differ

By Joe H. Tuten, pastor, Calvary, Jackson

Romans 14:1-15:13

The lesson for Sunday is entitled "Accepting Those Who Differ," based on Romans 14:1-15:13. The central truth is that "rather than being judgmental, Christians should accept and be considerate of other Christians with differing viewpoints."

The most basic problem in relationships between Christians is the failure to love one another. Love, the agape kind of love, is the church's God-given barrier of antidote to all kinds of problems that disrupt the sweet fellowship of a church and hinder its witness of Christ to a lost world. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one to another" (John 13:35). That is our badge, perhaps our only genuine badge—love one to another. Any substitute for this love is hypocrisy. Talking about love will not help, because this New Testament kind of love is neither feeling nor words but only deeds.

Warning about judging those who differ (Romans 14:1-12). Paul's strong theme of love begun in chapter 12 is continued in this passage. The church at Rome had problems. Fellowship within the church was being seriously damaged. The witness of Christ was being hindered. The members of the church were divided because of strong religious differences over what to eat and on what days to worship. They were judging each other. Perhaps several members were "saying what they thought" and "standing up for what they thought was right." Have you ever heard such? If we do such, are we practicing any particular Christian virtue? Not at all! The result may be that "we had our say," but feelings are hurt, Christian brothers are alienated, the Lord's church is split and an unbelieving world laughs.

Paul advanced several crucial thoughts in his effort to exhort the Lord's church in Rome to truly accept each other even though they differed. First, Christians should receive all persons whom God receives (Romans 14:1,3). Second, we have no right to judge another person's servants, and each individual Christian is God's servant (Romans 14:4,10). Third, each Christian's primary relationship is with the Lord, and no secondary relationship should intrude (Romans 14:6-8). Fourth, each Christian is accountable to God (Romans 14:10-12). If we take this seriously, we will stop much of what seems to be considered

an "inalienable Baptist right" to judge one another.

Challenge to judge one's own influence (Romans 14:13-23). Paul's exhortation is specific. "Let us not therefore judge one another any more" (Romans 14:13a). Let us stop now! Christians have no right and little ability to judge one another. Paul said our concern should be that we not put a stumblingblock in the way of a Christian brother (Romans 14:13).

The stronger or more mature Christian should live in love with the weaker or less mature Christian (Romans 14:15). It is a poor trade when we destroy (or "trip up") a Christian brother in order to prove that we are right or to have our way. It is better to have our faith quietly before God (Romans 14:22) than to be combative in spirit and try to correct every person's religious ideas. The Kingdom of God is not so much knowledge as it is "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17). These are the real goals of Christian living.

Putting others' needs first (Romans 15:1-6). The truly strong Christian bears the burden or endures the conscientious scruples of the weak Christian. The strong Christian does not display his knowledge, scriptural insights, or spiritual understanding in such a manner as to make a weak Christian uncomfortable or feel unstructured. He places the needs of the weak Christian first in his mind so as to help and encourage the weak Christian to grow.

Equal acceptance of both Jews and Gentiles (Romans 15:7-13). The church in Rome was composed of Jewish and Gentile Christians. The weak Christians referred to in the preceding passages were the Jews in the church who still held on to some of their scruples about eating meat which had been offered to idols and who probably had a real problem of giving up their traditional sabbath and accepting a new day, the Lord's Day, as their chief day of worship.

The strong Christians were the Gentiles in the church who had no prior scruples about eating any kind of meat and no prior commitment to any day of worship. Paul, though a Jew, identified himself with the strong Christians, the Gentiles', persuasion on those matters. But he made a strong appeal for those who were strong to help those who were weak, lest the faith of the weak should be destroyed and they (the Jews) would have no

Just for the Record



THE GIRLS IN ACTION OF THE BAY VISTA BAPTIST CHURCH, BILOXI, were honored with a special service to recognize their accomplishments in Missions Adventures. G.A. members pictured, left to right, are: Fadhila Samuel, Susan Heslep, Joni Kinabrew, Sunista Stapp, Christy Cameron, April Auer, Christina Auer, Andra Samuel, Tara Mize, Deborah Wise, and Kerry Cameron.

Graham among recipients of the Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON (BP)—Southern Baptist evangelist Billy Graham was one of 12 prominent Americans honored by President Reagan with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

In a White House East Room ceremony Feb. 23, Reagan cited the 64-year-old Graham as one whose "untiring evangelism has spread the Word of God to every corner of the globe and made him one of the most inspirational spiritual leaders of the Twentieth Century."

Others honored in the Feb. 23 ceremony were George Balanchine, founder of the School of American Ballet;

Paul (Bear) Bryant, the late head football coach of the University of Alabama; Eric Hoffer, a philosopher; Dumas Malone, an American historian; James Burnham, founding editor of National Review;

James Cheek, president of Howard University, Washington, D. C.; R. Buckminster Fuller, an architect-designer; Clare Boothe Luce, a playwright, diplomat and former member of Congress; Mabel Mercer, a recording artist and blues singer; Simon Ramo, an engineer, businessman and physicist who founded TRW, Inc., and Jacob K. Javits, a former U. S. senator from New York.

Off the Record . . .

The managing editor was very explicit in his instructions to the cub reporter. Among other things, he emphasized that names be obtained in writing all items.

"In fact," he stressed, "names are essential."

Later the cub reporter handed in the following item:

"Last night lightning struck a barn northwest of town belonging to Ike Davis, and killed three cows. Their names were Rosie, Isabel, and Mabel."

A mother asked her son who had just returned from a youth group car-washing project, "What was the least amount anyone paid you?"

He replied, "One man gave us just fifty cents." His mother said, "That's not very much."

"I know," he explained, "but maybe it's because we hosed his car before the windows were rolled up."

Overheard: "No dear, bacteria is not the rear entrance to a cafeteria."

Names in the News

Mr. and Mrs. Bryant Benton, pastor and wife at First Baptist Church, Steens, in Lowndes County, have moved into a new home built on the previous home site. Their home burned last fall and all their household goods were lost in the fire.

Tommy Lister was licensed Jan. 2, 1983, to the gospel ministry during the morning worship service at First Baptist Church, Belzoni. He is a junior at Mississippi College. Billy McKay is pastor.

Billy Trotter will be presented in an organ recital Sunday, March 27, at 3 p.m. in the Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson. Trotter is assistant professor of music at Mississippi College and has been organist at Northminster since 1976. The program will include selections by Bach, Jean Langlais, Vincent Persichetti, and Eugene Gigout. Trotter received a B.A. degree from Carson Newman College and master of music degree from George Peabody in Nashville.

FORT WORTH, Tex.—Efforts to aid Vietnam veterans and feed needy families have won national Abe Lincoln Awards for two broadcasters.

David Berry, vice president and general manager of WQDR-FM, Raleigh, N.C., and Mary Alice Tierney, community services director for WISN-TV, Milwaukee, were named top winners in the Abe Lincoln Awards for Distinguished Broadcasters during ceremonies.

This was the 14th year for the awards, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Val and Mary Frances Frailey, missionaries to Morocco since 1978, resigned from missionary service Feb. 28. They were stationed in Rabat, Morocco, where he was an English-language pastor to international community. Born in Sheridan, Wyo., the son of a military career officer, he has lived in N.M., Texas, Morocco, Ill., and Biloxi, Miss. She is from Corinth, Miss. They may be addressed at 8049 Reno Ct., Dallas, Texas 75217.

Glenn and Polly Morris, missionaries to Thailand, are on a temporary assignment in Hong Kong until May (address: 169 Boundary St., Kowloon, Hong Kong). He will be teaching at the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary. She is from Hattiesburg.

Daniel Wayne Irvin was ordained to the ministry Feb. 13 by the Centerville Church, Carroll County. He is the son of the Centerville pastor, Bobby Irvin. The church presented him with a leatherbound Bible.

John Searcy was licensed to the gospel ministry by First Baptist Church of Polkville on Feb. 13. A graduate of Morton Attendance Center, he attended Clarke College. Before moving to Polkville, he had been minister of music and youth at Calvary Baptist Church, College Park, Ga., and associate minister of music and youth at Jackson Drive Baptist Church, East Point, Ga. Searcy is available for interim pastorate, supply preaching, pastorate, revivals, or special services. He may be contacted at Route 4, Morton, Miss. 39117 (phone 601-537-3398).

Danny Smith and Jimmy Ory of Pascagoula were ordained as deacons of Jackson Avenue Baptist Church, Pascagoula, on Feb. 20. Tommy Kendrick, pastor, brought the charge to the deacons. H. A. Wilks, Jr. brought the charge to the church.

H. Craig Singleton has been named chairman of the church music department at Golden Gate Baptist Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., replacing Al Washburn, who resigned in December to accept a post at New Orleans Seminary. Singleton went to Golden Gate from Southern Seminary in 1979. He is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., as well as Southern Seminary.

Choir festival held at First, West Point

The Northeast Mississippi Church Music Festival was recently held at First Baptist Church, West Point, 26 choirs and ensembles participating. On Thursday night, Feb. 24, twelve youth choirs and ensembles sang and on Friday night, 14 adult choirs and ensembles presented festival music.

The festival did not have any required music, but each choir had been asked to sing two selections. There was a capacity crowd on Friday night.

Judges were Josephine D'Arpa, faculty member at William Carey College; Bart Shanklin, faculty member at Blue Mountain College; George McFadin, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Horn Lake; and Doug Polk, minister of music at Whitehaven Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

The festival committee consisted of Jim Hess, minister of music at First, Pontotoc, coordinator; James Francis, minister of music at West Heights, Pontotoc; and Don Odom, minister of music at First, Houston.

Uniform

An expanding fellowship

By John G. Armistead, pastor, Calvary, Tupelo
Acts 2:43-47; 6:1-7

What is a church supposed to look like? In these passages we have a picture of the ideal church. The believers are immersed in the Holy Spirit, the word of God is being proclaimed with power, converted sinners are flooding into the fellowship and every believer is growing in Christ. Before the New Testament era closes, several churches will begin to depart from this ideal (for example, Corinth and Laodicea) but here shines Christ's church in all her pristine beauty.

In this passage we see several characteristics of the ideal church. Of course, these qualities can be characteristic of the whole only if they are first characteristic of the individual members. A church can only be what its members are.

I. It was a reverent church (2:43a). We read that "fear came upon every soul." This word "fear" (phobos) means precisely that—to be afraid. The same word used to describe the guards at Christ's tomb when the angel came to roll away the stone (Matt. 28:4). Throughout the Bible we find admonitions to fear the Lord (cf., Prov. 1:7, Psalm 2:11, 1 Peter 2:17). Jesus urges his disciples to "fear" God (Matt. 10:28).

This concept means to have an utter awe at the holiness of God. Such a sense of God's holiness makes us all the more convicted of our sinfulness and unworthiness and, consequently, all the more grateful for God's amazing grace towards us.

Living in such awe of God's holiness, power, judgment, and grace produces a life-style which is non-judgmental but rather open towards others, which has a dynamic sense of accountability for one's every action, and which recognizes the whole earth as God's holy temple. Such living produces a reverent life-style in each person and thus in the church as a whole.

II. It was a sharing church (2:44-45).

The church felt a keen sense of responsibility in seeing that all of its members were taken care of. They were "together," not just physically, but also spiritually and emotionally. Each one felt his possessions were given him in trust by God in order that

place in the church.

The bottom line was that both groups, Jews and Gentiles, would have to welcome, really welcome, all whom Christ welcomed (Romans 15:7). The bottom line has not changed for your church or mine.

he might help his brothers and sisters in Christ. Thus, many sold their lands and houses to be sure the poorest of them had enough to eat. There was a keen sense of "family" in the church. If one hurt, all hurt. Such a spirit of sharing was rooted in their faith. "All that believed were together, and had all things common" (2:44).

III. It was a worshipping church (2:46a).

They hungered to be together worshipping God and therefore "daily" gathered at the temple, probably at Solomon's colonnade. There was a keen sense of unanimity in the church, and they were able to wholeheartedly join in praising God.

IV. It was a church of fellowship (2:46a).

They were "breaking bread from house to house." "Breaking bread" included both the Lord's Supper and their "love feasts." Eating together in the Near East is an act of highest fellowship. With over 3,000 believers already in the church it was necessary for them all to be scattered in various homes about the city taking their meals. They loved each other and wanted to be together.

V. It was a happy church (2:46b-47).

The life-style of the church was highlighted with "gladness." This word means "extreme joy." They were together with "singleness of heart." A church whose heart is torn with divisions cannot be happy. But the Jerusalem church had one mind, one purpose, and one heart. Their joy was not given by the world and the world could not take it away. Their joy came from their Lord (cf., John 16:22).

VI. It was a church which met everyone's need (6:1-7).

There were two basic elements in the Jerusalem church, the Palestinian Jews and Hellenistic Jews. Discord developed when the Hellenists felt their widows were not being equally treated. The apostles and the church moved quickly to correct the problem. Seven men were assigned the task of being sure everyone's needs were met and no one was overlooked. This harmony was restored and the work continued to progress.

A community of people with these qualities and this simple and pure life-style is extremely attractive to the world at large. They had "favor with all the people" (2:47). This attractiveness of the church drew even greater numbers to hear and believe the gospel "daily." The evangelistic success of any church depends greatly on how closely it measures up to the ideal New Testament church.

Life and Work

Witnessing to the world

By Beverly V. Tinnin, pastor, First, Meridian
Matt. 5:13-16; 7:15-27

The mortar that has held Southern Baptists together through the years has been commitment to missions and evangelism. Baptists have never believed in a "litmus test" to prove who are and who are not worthy to be members. If they have professed faith in Christ and followed New Testament teaching in baptism, they have been welcome to walk with us as we follow him and become "fishers of men."

The Bold Missions Thrust to carry the gospel to every living person on the planet is infinitely more important than insisting everyone be a "carbon copy" of ourselves in every doctrinal matter. The Christian walk is put into correct perspective in today's lesson.

Salt and light (Vv. 5:13-16)

Many civilizations have used salt as currency. This is the meaning of the old saying, "He is worth his salt." If this was a practice in New Testament days, it would not be incorrect to construe this is one thing Jesus had in mind (i.e., "You are the treasure of God"). In context it is clear he had in mind the responsibility resting upon Christian people as they rub shoulders with the world. Functions of salt include: it is a preservative; it is a seasoning agent; and it produces chemical changes (in freezing water and conducting electricity). A Christian influences his environment in a positive way unless he has lost his "saltiness." The Christian or salt that fails to accomplish its intended purpose is relegated to the rubbish heap.

Light exists not to be seen but to illuminate the way in darkness. Jesus is the sun and we are the moons that are intended to reflect his radiance. "Let the lower lights be burning" that the ships of our charge in this world may safely reach the "port of home."

Wolves and thorns (Vv. 7:15-20).

In our open society Baptists accept people at face value. We have no creed nor confessions of faith to hold our membership to. This freedom has worked well through the years and Baptists have grown at an incredible rate. Paul warned the New Testament churches frequently about false teachers who infiltrate and try to lead the people away with false doctrines. We must be alert to this threat and hold to Bible teachings that Baptists have stood for through the years.

Likewise, Jesus stressed the need for being "fruit inspectors," seeing that the fruit born is the kind the "true vine" produces. Any other fruit shows

it comes from a different source and is a different kind of plant. An acorn, sweet gum ball, or hickory nut points to its parent tree. Evil thoughts and deeds reflect the same. The prince of darkness is the parental authority of such. The judgement will reveal who a person is rather than who he says he is.

Christ the only foundation (Vv. 7:24, 25)

Since childhood we have sung, "The wise man builds his house upon a rock . . ." and it lasted and lasted. Storms and trials will test the edifice of every life. Erosion will cause the house built on any but Christ and his teachings to tumble into the abyss. Apart from Christ, his teachings will not suffice. Men will reject the directions unless the divine person of Christ is seen as the teacher. Secular or humanistic philosophies will not do. Recognition as Thomas ("My Lord and my God") is essential to recognition of the validity of Jesus' teachings.

Former missionary dies at age 104

Mary Raleigh Anderson, who taught for 11 years at Murphy High School in Mobile, Ala., and for 18 years at a Southern Baptist missionary school in Canton, China, died March 5 in Mobile. She was 104.

A native of Blue Mountain, Miss., Miss Anderson lived in Mobile County for 80 years.

Miss Anderson also taught for a time at Blue Mountain College, which was founded in 1873 by her grandfather, Mark Perrin Lowrey.

Miss Anderson taught at Pei Tao Academy, a Southern Baptist missionary school in Canton, China. While in China she was associated with her aunt, Janie Lowrey Graves, who served in China for more than 50 years and became one of the best known of the Southern Baptist missionaries.

Miss Anderson returned to the United States in 1935 after 18 years in China. After teaching for 11 years at Murphy, she left Mobile to become head of the department of education at Wayland College in Plainview, Texas. She returned to the Mobile area after retiring.

Survivors include two cousins, Sara Lowrey of Greenville, S. C., and Mrs. William H. Preston of Tupelo.

Services were March 8 at Radney Funeral Home in Mobile.

Howe'er it be, it seems to me, 'tis only noble to be good.—Tennyson.